

Application No. 09/474,569
Amendment dated May 15, 2006
Reply to Office Action dated March 28, 2006

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests further examination and reconsideration in view of the arguments set forth fully below. In the Final Office Action mailed March 28, 2006, claims 1, 3-14, 16-23, 25-32 and 34-35 have been rejected. In response, the Applicant has amended claims 1, 9, 14, 18, 21, 23, 27, 30, 32 and 35, has cancelled claims 3, 11-12, 16-17, 25-26 and 34 and has submitted the following remarks. Accordingly, claims 1, 4-14, 18-23, 27-32 and 35 are pending. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the amended claims and the remarks below.

Examiner Interview

The applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's time and attention during the telephone interviews of May 4 and May 9, 2006. During the interviews, the Examiner and the undersigned discussed the rejections to claims 1, 14, 23 and 32, in light of Wong. Specifically, the undersigned argued that Wong does not teach a first application configured to retrieve patient image data from a picture archival and communications system (PACS) and display those patient images for a patient on a display unit and generate a set of patient context data for the patient that includes patient and user information, the first application being in data communication with a second application wherein the second application is configured to retrieve patient textual data from a radiology information system (RIS), wherein the patient data includes patient textual data. Wong further does not teach a workstation configured to operate both the first and second application, wherein the first application sends a set of patient context data to the second application and the second application receives the set of patient context data and displays patient data based on the set of patient context data. Furthermore, the Examiner and the undersigned discussed possible claim amendments for the independent claims. The amendments made above are made pursuant to the Examiner's comments and suggestions.

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Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Within the Office Action, claims 1, 3, 5-14, 16-23 and 25-32 been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,260,021 to Wong, et al (hereinafter Wong). The Applicant respectfully disagrees with this rejection.

As was discussed with the Examiner in the Examiner Interviews of May 4 and May 9, 2006, the Wong reference does not teach a first application and a second application in data communication with one another, wherein the first application is configured to retrieve patient image data from a PACS system and the second application is configured receive patient textual data from a RIS system, wherein a workstation coupled to the display unit is configured to operate both the first and second applications, and the first application sends the set of patient context data to the second application and the second application receives the set of patient context data and displays patient data on a display unit based on the set of patient context data. The independent claim 1 includes elements reflecting these teachings, and therefore the Applicant submits that the independent claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Wong and is in a condition for allowance.

Claims 5-13 are dependent upon the independent claim 1. As discussed above, the independent claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Wong. For at least these reasons, claims 5-13 are allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim. Claim 3 has been cancelled.

The Applicant respectfully submits that the amended independent claims 14, 23 and 32 are allowable for the same reasons as discussed above regard the amended independent claim 1.

Claims 18-22, 27-31 and 35 are dependent upon the independent claims 14, 23 and 32. As discussed above, the independent claims 14, 23 and 32 are allowable over the teachings of Wong. For at least these reasons, claims 18-22, 27-31 and 35 are allowable

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as being dependent upon an allowable base claim. Claim 16-17, 25-26, and 34 have been cancelled.

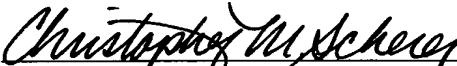
REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Within the Office Action, claim 4 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wong. The Applicant respectfully disagrees with this rejection. Claim 4 is dependent upon the independent claim 1. As discussed above, the independent claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Wong. Accordingly, claim 4 is also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

For these reasons Applicant respectfully submits that all the claims are now in condition for allowance, and allowance at an early date would be appreciated. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, they are encouraged to call the undersigned at 414-271-7590 to discuss the same so that any outstanding issues can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,

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